

English A Course Introduction

Instructor: Scott Bingham

A: Course Intro

Welcome! My name is Scott Bingham and I will be your instructor for this module of your English A course. In this module we will focus on **reading**; therefore, my goal in teaching this course is to help you become better readers. Reading, like practicing a sport or playing a musical instrument, is a complex activity and you become better readers the same way you get better at doing any other activity - practice, practice, practice. Therefore, in this class you will read and read and read. With reading, however, you can also improve by thinking about **HOW** you learn and **HOW** you can make your learning experiences better. The plans and activities you do to be a better reader are called "**reading strategies**" (読解) and they include any activity you do to help improve your ability to read and understand English reading material. Although many of you might already be using strategies, in this class you will learn and practice a *system* of reading known as **SQ3R** (Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review). This reading system will not only help you in your studies here at MMU, but also throughout your lives.

In-Class Work

Starting next week, you will begin doing "**intensive reading**" by learning the SQ3R reading system. For this you will read the story: "**When Rain Clouds Gather**." Each week we will read one or two chapter of the story and practice using the SQ3R system. During these activities, you will have opportunities to work with the members of your group. Your group will be a very important aspect of this class, so starting next week, think very carefully who you want to sit with. In your group work, I would like you to try to use as much English as you can. I don't expect you to be able to speak *only* English, but I expect you to try.

Also, at the beginning of every class, you will have a Vocabulary Quiz. On this quiz, you will have to write down ten of the new words you added to your New Word List of your Reading Journal. Then, you will write the Japanese meaning, and one related word. You will have ten minutes to finish the quiz and everything must be done from **MEMORY** - without using any notes.

Out-of-Class Work

In addition to the work you do in class every week, you will also do "**extensive reading**" outside of class. Extensive reading means that in addition to reading the story "When Rain Clouds Gather", you are required to read books of **YOUR OWN CHOOSING** outside of class. These books will come from the **graded reader** section of the MMU Library. Graded readers are books suited for your level of reading ability. If you are a weak reader, you should choose easier books to read. If you are strong reader, you should choose more challenging books. You will be expected to read **6** graded readers for this class (or 1 book every two weeks). For the extensive reading, you will keep a **Reading Journal** as a record of your reading practice. I will talk more about the Reading Journal later.

Both the In-Class Work and the Out-of-Class Work are **NOT** optional and **MUST BE FINISHED** before class starts the following week. Ladies and Gentlemen, you are university students now and that means you **WILL** hand in your work **ON TIME**. *Serious* sickness is the only excuse for not finishing your work. Part-time jobs, club activities, going on dates with your "darling", getting drunk with your classmates, etc., are **NOT** acceptable reasons for not doing your homework. Any work you hand in late will automatically lose 50% of the points.

B: Materials Needed

Please bring these to class **EVERY WEEK**.

- an **A4**-size folder with your name, class number, and student number printed on the front.
- good Japanese/English, English/Japanese dictionaries
- your brain and a sense of humor and creativity.

C: Grading

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following components.

50%	Reading Journal
40%	Weekly Worksheets and Weekly Vocabulary Quizzes
10%	Final Exam (in July)

*** Attendance will be taken every week. You can only miss **4** classes. If you miss more than 4 classes, you will **fail** and have to take the **ENTIRE** English A course next year. Tardiness will also be noted. If you are tardy (more than five minutes late) two times, that will count as one missed class. I start class when the bell rings, so please be in your seat ready to start.